

Broomall, PA-- Today, Congressman Joe Sestak, a former Fire Marshal in the Navy and a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, spoke at the Broomall Fire Company's Annual Banquet.

"As a Fire Marshal in the Navy, I know of the selfless commitment of first-responders," noted Joe at the banquet. "That is why I am proud to be here tonight to recognize and honor the heroism and hard work of the men and women of Broomall Fire Company."

The Broomall Fire Company was founded in 1923 by a group of 23 men. They worked using a hand operated gong, donated by the Oakmont Fire Company and placed on their recently purchased property to act as an alarm, and two donated hand extinguishers and a donated hand drawn hose reel. It was not until two years later, when the Company purchased its first motorized apparatus, an American La France pumper, for \$5700. In 1938, the Broomall Fire Company put in service a field-fighting unit built on an old school bus chassis purchased for one dollar from the school district, but it was not until some six years later, in 1944, that the Company was able to afford the purchase of a new Mack pumper.

Today, the Firehouse siren and ringing of house bells are silent, replaced by pocket pagers to alert members of the Fire Company. Yet, the men and women of the Broomall Fire Company continue to provide the same level of care and protection to our community since they first did in 1923.

At the banquet, Joe also spoke of his support and cosponsorship of bipartisan legislation to provide tax relief for volunteer first responders. The legislation, the Volunteer Firefighter's Tax Incentive Protection Act (H.R. 943), would allow state and local governments the flexibility to develop beneficial tax incentives, including property tax abatements, retirement awards, death benefits, health benefits, and state income tax credits, for encouraging recruitment and retention for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel. Joe hopes that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local municipalities will continue to work to provide their volunteer emergency responders with the appropriate incentives, rewarding them for the first-class service they offer the citizens of Pennsylvania.

"One of the greatest services in my district comes from first responders who are on the frontlines protecting us. They are required to balance the demands of their service with their

families and full-time careers. It is vital we enact legislation that will encourage the recruitment and retention of these invaluable members of our community," stated Joe

Joe plans to visit all the fire and police stations in the district. He has already visited Ridley Park Fire Co. 1, Radnor Fire Co., Swarthmore Fire Co., Folsom Fire Co., Llanerch Fire Co., Prospect Park Fire Department, Cardington-Stonehurst Fire Company, Brookline Fire Company, Essington Fire Company, and Ogden Fire Company. On Saturday, March 3, Joe attended the 101st Annual Awards dinner of the Delaware County Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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